

## NEW PUBLICATIONS.

A FRENCHMAN IN AMERICA.  
THE UNITED STATES DURING THE WAR. By Advers  
Lions. Price, \$1.00. Before dinner.

It is so rare and so refreshing to find a foreigner visiting and describing this country, not only with a kind and liberal spirit toward our people, a sympathy with our principles, and an enlightened tolerance of these peculiarities of American manners which are apt to grate most harshly upon the habits of life and thought of the cultivated classes of the old world, but at the same time with an appreciation and thorough understanding of our political institutions, that we should give Mr. Laugel's book a hearty welcome on account of its good intentions, even were it literary and other merits far less decided than they really are. But he has no need to plead good intentions in excuse for a lame performance. He is not only a warm admirer, but a close and careful observer, and a skillful narrator. His statements of political questions and his judgment of American public men are remarkably accurate and acute. He writes in a picturesque and animated style, with an almost perfect command of the English language. His book deserves to be extensively read, and will undoubtedly be very generally admired.

Mr. Laugel arrived in this country in September, 1864; I shall not seek to deny that I yielded with a certain complacency to the feelings which arose upon my first meeting with him, and which were fully reciprocated. But in my country the men of my generation have always marred, respecting in their full depth. I found myself in a living world, where nothing was easier to think, where the soul could change into a swan, and shun every object of alarm, without a harsh and eloquent an object. I am not one of those who accept deincey only with a sort of melancholy resignation as a fact, as would necessity suggest; what restlessness would be vain. I like it from time to time, but it is from the heart. I am not under the influence of liberty, and not under that of despotism. It entitles me better to find equals among men, rather than inferiorities. . . . When I see the light arrow that the Old World throws at the New fly past, I can't help it. I do, however, feel that the New is more "alive" than the Old. That man can govern a government, who equality does not suffice him, and democracy does not yield to despotism, they have shown that a people can be religious when the State neither pays the church nor punishes her for her sins in a Christian and sinless society. Nothing can take from them these three stains to glory.

The volume opens with an able discussion of "The Cause of the War," in which Mr. Laugel traces the history of the States' Rights controversy and the irrepressible conflict between slavery and freedom, and leads his readers to the conclusion that the Rebellion was "the premeditated attempt of an army of种植者 to overthrow the Government to save the Republic rather than to lose its direction, the coup d'état of a minority against the majority, against the laws, and against the Constitution." A rapid summary of the military and political events of the three years from 1861 to 1864 brings him to the last Presidential campaign, in the midst of which he arrived in America. He describes with great spirit and fidelity the incidents of "the duel between the parties," the processions, the public meetings and the process of voting. We give an extract from his account of a meeting in Faneuil Hall:

The author, who had met in the ranks of the different patriots, crossed the city with torchlights, banners and transparency, on which were painted their favorite mottoes. When he reached the spot, there were three hours before the doors had been taken, platforms erected, occupied by orators addressing those who had been invited to sit and play in the interior. From the platform, a speaker, too, addressed the assembly, and the grand finale of the evening, the hall appeared as like a sea of moving heads; all present were standing, except those packed, shoulder to shoulder, and from time to time the tremendous currents swayed in their directions the animated mass of the audience was waving madly.

During four hours the orators had the attention of the crowd. One of them, just come from Maryland, carried the enthusiasm of the audience to the height of evoking the remembrance of the soldiers. Mr. Charles Sumner pronounced the principal speech of the evening, and the grand finale was given when above all the noise of the massed crowd, while he developed, with an indissoluble sign of the separate programmes of the Democratic and the Republican parties. I observed attentively the colored men who mingled among the auditors. Their sparing voices told me that they were not yet accustomed to speak in public, and that their tender, and on their beagle faces I could read pure and true sentiments than those in which vulgar popularities seek to find their consecration.

Mr. Laugel travelled over a large part of the Union and gives some vivid descriptions of the natural scenery through which he passed and of the characteristics of the cities and people that he visited. He was in Missouri at the time of Sterling Price's invasion, of which he pens a short but good account. At St. Louis he went to see the quarters of the white and black refugees.

An old woman with a bright, gay face, passed us carrying a basket of turnips. "Why do you not buy your turnips in the market?" said I. "I have no money," she replied. "I am a state of the head and an indomitable grimace." "Can I not hear her?" An old man with beard and hair perfectly white sat on a stool near by, warning us in a low voice that must have been a secret. "Well, I asked you to leave your home to the South." "To do the same as you, yes; but when I entered Uncle Sam won't make us work no more." The houses, opposite to the white colleagues were filled almost exclusively with negroes. I saw one old man with a beard and grey hair go to work. The members of the same families remained together. The unfortunate creatures looked at us with a strange curiosity; the women, especially, willingly entered into conversation; the men, however, were silent. They were all dressed in rags and tatters, and on their beagle faces I could read pure and true sentiments than those in which vulgar popularities seek to find their consecration.

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He visited the Army of the Potomac in the lines before Petersburg, and writes with enthusiasm of its bravery, efficiency, intelligence, and patriotism. He devotes an eloquent chapter to the character and career of President Lincoln, and seems to have thoroughly comprehended his policy and motives. He urges with great earnestness the necessity for demanding of the lately rebellious States guarantees for the political as well as civil emancipation of the blacks, without the safeguard of whose votes he believes that the Union will be again in danger when the reconstructed States recover an influence in Federal affairs. "The future of the black race," he adds, "would be too bad if the justice of the United States should not extend to it protection and hope. So long as the negro was a slave, the Southerner despised, but did not hate him; free, he will hate and despise him at the same time."

There are some excellent and graphic passages in his chapters on the cities and people of the West:

In the West, the hotels are the real monument. In the great marble-hewn halls there is an incessant crowd of travellers, idlers and speculators, busy reading the papers, the non-smoking men the telegrams, the young men the books of the hotel, where the new converts are in full force; the smokers are rare in all directions; a small or two pipes and tobacco comes from the bar, full, noisy group. The ladies receive their visits in the drawing-rooms, seated with rich and gaudy carpets; now and then a young girl tries the last note of the piano, and the old ones sing out a dead, flat sound. In the enormous dining-rooms stretch out the tables, where you can sit at any hour, and when under different names you eat the same meal three or four times a day. Beside a woman sitting at a table, a man sits down, her back to him, her back to his, with his hands clasped, sits down a stout farmer, who has drowsed an instant all that lies before him. A child drinks a glass of sweet milk, while an officer or thorough drinker a bottle of Catawba. Action and anxiety are still, but the young girls try the last note of the piano, and the old ones sing out a dead, flat sound.

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